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EXAMINER	
POINVIL, FRANTZY	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3692	

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/883,779	JOHNSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Frantzy Poinvil	3692	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *27 October 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-11,13,14 and 16-45* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-11, 13, 14 and 16-45* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the amendment filed 10/27/2006.

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11, 13-14 and 16-45 have been considered but are not persuasive.

3. Applicant's representative has amended the independent claims to recite "wherein the physical condition of each of the plurality of assets is not determined based on the physical condition of the asset" and argues that Sims et al rely on the location of the assets to determined their condition.

The Examiner disagrees with the applicant's assertion. It is noted that Sims et attach corresponding tags to various assets that are located to different locations within an enterprise or organization. The tags are linked in a network and communicate the condition of the assets. The conditions of the assets imply whether the assets need to be repaired, misplaced or cleaned. Sims et al state on column 7, lines 60-63:

"Data management computer 82 maintains databases on all locations (and, where applicable, the conditions) of devices 12. The databases are accessible by users (e.g., hospital personnel) at data access computers 80 (and at other points on network 14), and thus serve as highly valuable tools for assisting hospital personnel in locating stored devices 12 and managing the inventory of devices 12".

And on column 10, lines 4-22 Sims et al state:

"FIG. 7 shows the state of event queue 100 when processor 90 performs the reset procedure discussed above. Processor 90 determines that tags 30a, 30b with the data structures D100 and D200 are connected to port 29.sub.1 (by communication link 16a), which corresponds to "ready" area 22 of storeroom 18. Similarly, processor 90 detects that tag 30c (address D150) is

connected (via link 16b) to port 29.sub.2 (which corresponds to "needs cleaning" area 24 of storeroom 18). Finally, processor 90 detects that tag 30d (address D500) is connected to port 29.sub.3 (which corresponds to "needs repair" area 26 of storeroom 18). Thus, each entry 98 identifies a data structure 36, a location code 108 of "001" and a connect ("C") event type. In addition, each entry 98 is stamped 104 with the date and time (e.g., Dec. 1, 1993; 12:00) at which processor 90 has identified data structure 36 connection activity for the two consecutive search cycles and minimum time period discussed above.".

For further reference, applicant is applicant is directed to column 11, line 53 to column 12, line 5 of Sims et al. Thus, Sims et al teach the invention as claimed.

The prior rejection is repeated below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, 14, 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sims et al (US Patent No. 5,434,775).

As per claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, 14, 16-19, Sims et al disclose a system and method for managing an inventory of devices. In so doing, Sims et al teach a system for managing a plurality of assets such as medical devices of one or more enterprises or hospitals and allowing a user to access asset information related to the medical devices. See the abstract. Sims et al disclose a central processor, a database for

storing and tracking asset information for each of the plurality of assets of the plurality of enterprises, the database in communication with the central processor, wherein each of the plurality of assets is a piece of equipment, and further wherein the asset information comprises information relating to ownership, maintenance and repair of the pieces of equipment; wherein the central processor tracks information relevant to managing each of the assets. Applicant is directed to figures 10-14 and column13, lines 4-64 of Sims et al.

Sims et al. further teach the central processor in communication with a computer network through a communication link. See figure 1 of Sims. The database stores asset information in the form of pages which in turn link to other pages. See figures 10-14 of Sims et al.

The central processor is programmed with code for determining an appropriate service provider for a particular asset and alerting the service provider of a service request. See column 15, lines 28-39 of Sims et al.

The central processor is programmed with code for establishing a communication link with the asset interface through the client processor, and the asset interface communicates with the client processor through a wireless communication modality. See columns 13-15 of Sims et al.

The user is an agent of the enterprise, a service provider or an equipment manufacturer. See column 16, line 64 to column 17, line 29 and column 14, lines 60-67 of Sims et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 5-10 and 20-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sims et al (US Patent No. 5,434,775) in view of Dilger, Karen Abramic (Asset management, maintenance redefined), Manufacturing Systems, v15n7, pp. 122-128, July 2997, CODEN: MASYES< ISSN: 0748-948X, JRNL CODE: MF'S, Dialog file 15, Accession No. 01493159 and/or McGovern et al (5,918,207).

As per claims 2, 6-9 the teachings of Sims et al are discussed above. Sims et al do not explicitly state that their central processor includes a website by at least one computer in communication with a computer network through a communication link. However, Sims et al teach the central computer is hosted by at least one computer in communication with a computer network through a communication link. The Examiner notes that Sims et al provide means for internal and outside computers to communicate with their central processor. Sims et al further teach transmitting reports or fax messages to external computers or fax machines connected to their central processor. See column 15 of Sims et al.

The Examiner notes that web browsing techniques and introduction of the Internet was available at the time of applicant's invention and the motivation of most

businesses and enterprises or organization was to provide a web enablement system of their organization computerized system.

Dilger discusses many asset management systems wherein a central database stores information on various assets held by an organization. Users of the organization access a website hosted by at least one server and transmit a service request to the server. See pages 3-7 of the reference. Thus, Dilger discusses receiving a service request at the website for an asset.

As such, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sims et al with Dilger so as allow access to the system using web browsing techniques in order to allow users to access the system from anywhere.

The client processor in the combination above would be able to input, query and download asset information from the central processor through the web browser. The central processor is programmed with code for utilizing a user profile, including securable attributes, to limit access to particular asset information. See column 14, lines 60-64 of Sims et al. Sims et al further teach the asset interface communicates with the client processor through a wireless communication modality. Sims et al. also disclose calculating a total cost of ownership for a particular asset or group of assets by updating all transactions stored in the database.

As per claim 5, Sims et al provide means for internal and outside computers to communicate with their central processor. Sims et al further teach transmitting reports or fax messages to external computers or fax machines connected to their central

processor. See column 15 of Sims et al. Dilger discusses using the Internet. Thus, providing Email messages to a service provider would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to do in the combination of Sims et al and Dilger since most web browsers have Email capabilities thus, providing Email capabilities in the combination of Dilger and Sims et al would have been used as an alternate communication means and as an instant way of communicating between suppliers, manufacturers and technicians for quick services.

As per claim 10, Sims et al do not explicitly teach the central processor is programmed with code for generating a GIS map locating one of the plurality of enterprise assets. As per this feature, the enterprises or financial systems discussed in Sims et al may possess a plurality of different types of assets located in different geographic locations. Using a GIS map for locating the location of automobiles, vehicles or trains is well known in the art at the time of the applicant's invention. If the assets are the like of ambulances, then it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a GIS map for locating assets if the enterprises own assets such as vehicles or transportation assets so as to be informed of their location and conditions so as to better assess the total costs or values of all assets owned by the enterprise.

As per claims 20, 30, 31, 38, 39 and 45, Sims et al disclose a system and method for generating service requests in a highly distributed enterprise such as a

hospital to a plurality of service providers from a plurality of distributed asset sites. The method comprising providing a site hosted by at least one server computer in communication with a computer network, the site including a database containing asset information and service provider information; receiving a service request at the site for an asset; automatically selecting an appropriate service provider based on the asset to be serviced and generating an electronic message to the appropriated service provider requesting service. See columns 13-17 of Sims et al. The system of Sims et al also creates a log listing service requests and additional messages to the service provider if no response has been forthcoming. The service request is generated automatically by an asset interface through a client computer in communication with a computer network.

Sims et al do not explicitly state that their central processor includes a website by at least one computer in communication with a computer network through a communication link. However, Sims et al teach the central computer is hosted by at least one computer in communication with a computer network through a communication link. The Examiner notes that Sims et al provide means for internal and outside computers to communicate with their central processor. Sims et al further teach transmitting reports or fax messages to external computers or fax machines connected to their central processor. See column 15 of Sims et al.

The Examiner notes that web browsing techniques and introduction of the Internet were available at the time of applicant's invention and the motivation of most businesses and enterprises or organization was to provide a web enablement system of their organization computerized system.

Dilger discusses many asset management systems wherein a central database stores information on various assets held by an organization. Users of the organization access a website hosted by at least one server and transmit a service request to the server. See pages 3-7 of the reference. Thus, Dilger discusses receiving a service request at the website for an asset.

As such, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sims et al with Dilger so as allow access to the system using web browsing techniques in order to allow users to access the system from anywhere.

As per claims 21-28, the client processor inputs, queries and downloads asset information from the central processor through a web browser. The central processor is programmed with code for utilizing a user profile, including securable attributes, to limit access to particular asset information. See column 14, lines 60-64 of Sims et al. Sims et al further teach the asset interface communicates with the client processor through a wireless communication modality. Sims et al. also disclose calculating a total cost of ownership for a particular asset or group of assets by updating all transactions stored in the database.

Sims et al. further teach the central processor in communication with a computer network through a communication link. See figure 1 of Sims. The database stores asset information in the form of pages which in turn link to other pages. See figures 10-14 of Sims et al.

The central processor is programmed with code for determining an appropriate service provider for a particular asset and alerting the service provider of a service request. See column 15, lines 28-39 of Sims et al.

The central processor is programmed with code for establishing a communication link with the asset interface through the client processor, and the asset interface communicates with the client processor through a wireless communication modality. See columns 13-15 of Sims et al. The user is an agent of the enterprise, a service provider or an equipment manufacturer. See column 16, line 64 to column 17, line 29 and column 14, lines 60-67 of Sims et al.

As per claim 29, the client processor being a kiosk located at an enterprise is not explicitly stated in Sims et al. and Dilger. Sims et al state that client can be any computer system thus meeting a kiosk.

As per claim 32, Sims et al do not explicitly teach the central processor is programmed with code for generating a GIS map locating one of the plurality of enterprise assets. As per this feature, the enterprises or financial systems discussed in Sims et al may possess a plurality of different types of assets located in different geographic locations. Using a GIS map for locating the location of automobiles, vehicles or trains is well known in the art at the time of the applicant's invention. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a GIS map for locating assets if the enterprises own assets such as

vehicles or transportation assets so as to be informed of their location and conditions so as to better assess the total costs or values of all assets owned by the enterprise.

As per claims 33-37, the client processor inputs, queries and downloads asset information from the central processor through a web browser. The central processor is programmed with code for utilizing a user profile, including securable attributes, to limit access to particular asset information. See column 14, lines 60-64 of Sims et al. Sims et al further teach the asset interface communicates with the client processor through a wireless communication modality. Sims et al. also disclose calculating a total cost of ownership for a particular asset or group of assets by updating all transactions stored in the database. Sims et al. further teach the central processor in communication with a computer network through a communication link. See figure 1 of Sims. The database stores asset information in the form of pages which in turn link to other pages. See figures 10-14 of Sims et al.

The central processor is programmed with code for determining an appropriate service provider for a particular asset and alerting the service provider of a service request. See column 15, lines 28-39 of Sims et al.

The central processor is programmed with code for establishing a communication link with the asset interface through the client processor, and the asset interface communicates with the client processor through a wireless communication modality. See columns 13-15 of Sims et al. The user is an agent of the enterprise, a service

provider or an equipment manufacturer. See column 16, line 64 to column 17, line 29 and column 14, lines 60-67 of Sims et al.

As per claim 40, the teachings of Sims et al and Dilger are discussed above. Sims et al do not explicitly recite using Email. Sims et al provide means for internal and outside computers to communicate with their central processor. Sims et al further teach transmitting reports or fax messages to external computers or fax machines connected to their central processor. See column 15 of Sims et al. Dilger discusses using the Internet. Thus, providing Email messages to a service provider would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to do in the combination of Sims et al and Dilger since most web browsers have Email capabilities thus, providing Email capabilities in the combination of Dilger and Sims et al would have been used as an alternate communication means and as an instant way of communicating between suppliers, manufacturers and technicians for quick services.

As per claim 41, the combined teaching above does not explicitly state the additional step
of attaching asset information onto the E-mail. Such would have been obvious to do by the ordinary skill in the art to do in the combination above in order to inform the service provider of malfunctions of the assets to be serviced so as to expedite repairs of the assets needed to be repaired.

As per claim 42, the combination above does not explicitly teach attaching a link to a web page onto the E-mail. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to attach a link to a web page onto the E-mail in the combined teachings above in order to provide the service with sources where further information regarding the asset may be found so as to expedite repairs of the asset.

As per claims 43 and 44, receiving a service report at the website from the service provider would have been obvious to do in the combination above so as to provide service or repairs made regarding the assets being repaired. Storing asset information in the service report under an appropriate factor would have also been obvious to do in the combination above in order to acknowledge all services made on a particular asset and also to enable easy access and retrieval of such a record.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frantzy Poinvil whose telephone number is (571) 272-6797. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00AM to 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached on (571) 272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Frantzy Poinvil
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3692

FP
December 5, 2006